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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:52:24 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

March 17, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1266 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: AZORES SUMMIT, IRAQ, AND PRESIDENT  
BUSH'S STATEMENTS  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01266

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: DCM POL ECON AMB  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE  
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN  
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI165  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #1266 0760829  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 170829Z MAR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8883  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0602  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0660  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001266

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AZORES SUMMIT, IRAQ, AND PRESIDENT  
BUSH'S STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY: THE AZORES SUMMIT GENERATED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN  
LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRINT AND SATELLITE MEDIA. LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
MEDIA ALSO COVERED THE OPENING CEREMONY OF AND US PARTICIPATION

IN THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE (IDEX 2003). IN AN UNUSUAL EDITORIAL CRITICIZING THE IRAQI REGIME, 'AL KHALEEJ' DESCRIBED THE ANTICIPATED WAR AS 'THE THIRD WAR,' CLAIMING THAT IRAQ WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CALAMITIES OF THE REGION. OTHER EDITORIALS CONTINUED TO VOICE THEIR DISCONTENT WITH US DETERMINATION TO WAGE A WAR AGAINST IRAQ. END SUMMARY.

12. ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT 'AL ITTIHAD' AND DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY 'KHALEEJ TIMES' HIGHLIGHTED REMARKS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UAE MARCELLE WAHBA AT THE IDEX 2003 OPENING CEREMONY. ARTICLES QUOTED THE AMBASSADOR'S PRAISE OF UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN'S INITIATIVE FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WITH IRAQ AS WELL AS HIS SUPPORT FOR PEACE WORLDWIDE.

13. 'AL KHALEEJ' CARRIED ON 3/15 AN INSIDE-PAGE REPORT WITH PHOTOS OF A GROUP OF STUDENTS AT THE UAE UNIVERSITY IN AL AIN DEMONSTRATING AGAINST U.S. POLICY TOWARDS THE CRISIS IN IRAQ.

14. COMMENTING ON THE AZORES SUMMIT YESTERDAY, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/17:

"... GOING TO WAR WITHOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S APPROVAL IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY AND POSSIBLY THE UN. WITH THE HOUR OF WAR DECIDED, WE HOPE A MIRACLE, WHICH EVERYONE IS DREAMING WILL OCCUR, WILL RESULT IN THE DIFFUSION OF WAR. BUT WILL THE DREAM COME TRUE?"

15. IN AN UNUSUAL EDITORIAL CRITICIZING THE IRAQI REGIME AS THE CAUSE FOR THE REGION'S CALAMITIES, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/17:

"... EVERYONE IS CONVINCED, WHETHER THEY ARE ACCEPTED OR NOT ACCEPTED, THAT THE WAR IS KNOCKING ON OUR DOORS, BUT THE IRAQI REGIME IS STILL TRYING TO GAIN TIME, TO PLAY WITH TIME, AND IS DEALING WITH THE CRISIS IN EASY INSTALLMENTS. ALTHOUGH IRAQ HAS RESPONDED TO UNSC RESOLUTION 1441, YET VERY SLOWLY, JUST LIKE ITS HABIT OF DEALING WITH IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WOULD AVERT THE IRAQIS MORE TRAGEDIES. THE CRISIS OF THE FIRST GULF WAR IS STILL IN THE AIR, AND THE CRISIS OF THE SECOND GULF WAR, RESULTING FROM THE CRIMINAL INVASION OF KUWAIT, IS STILL GOING ON AS WELL. IN ORDER TO STOP THE CRISIS OF A THIRD GULF WAR, INITIATIVES AND SINCERE ADVISE WERE GIVEN TO THE IRAQI REGIME TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE AND TO HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE REGIME HAS IGNORED ALL OF THIS INSTEAD OF CLOSING OPENINGS FOR WAR ..."

16. COMMENTING ON TODAY'S MEETINGS AT THE AZORES SUMMIT, 'AL KHALEEJ' EDITORIALIZED ON 3/16:

"THE SUMMIT THAT WILL BE HELD TODAY IN THE AZORES ISLANDS BETWEEN US PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, UK PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR, AND SPANISH PRIME MINISTER JOSE MARIA AZNAR IS REALLY A 'WAR SUMMIT.' THESE THREE LEADERS HAVE DESTROYED ALL BRIDGES LEADING TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE IRAQI CRISIS AND INSTEAD HAVE CHOSEN WAR ... THEIR MEETING TODAY WILL ANNOUNCE THE END OF THE COUNTDOWN TO A WAR THAT WILL NOT ONLY BE AGAINST IRAQ BUT INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY."

17. COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S STATEMENT ON THE ROADMAP AND PALESTINIAN ISSUES, 'AL BAYAN' EDITORIALIZED ON 3/16:

"... BUSH'S STATEMENT WAS APPLAUDED BY ISRAEL, WHO KNEW WHAT HE WOULD SAY BEFORE HE SAID IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATION DEALS FLEXIBLY WITH ALL PEACE INITIATIVES, ESPECIALLY AS SEEN WITH THE NOMINATION OF MAHMOUD ABBAS, ABU MAZEN, AS PRIME MINISTER OF PALESTINE, WHOM ISRAEL APPROVED OF BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN INTIFADA!! WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT IS THE PALESTINIAN MAN WHO IS THE PULSE OF THE CURRENT INTIFADA. THIS MAN WILL NEVER YIELD TO ANY TRIALS TERMINATING HIS LEGITIMATE BATTLE. THE PALESTINIAN INTIFADA IS SUPPOSED TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD AND NOT BE MOVED BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT EVEN SYMPATHIZE WITH PALESTINIANS."

WAHBA